



HAWAII BROADBAND INITIATIVE

Policy Outline ***August 23, 2011***

VISION: All of Hawaii's citizens will have access to ultra-high-speed gigabit broadband services at affordable prices by 2018.

PURPOSE: World-class broadband services and their application will improve overall productivity, support innovation and creativity, lead to job creation, and improve the overall quality of life through advances in education, health care and civic engagement.

GOALS:

1. Ensure ubiquitous access to world-class gigabit-per-second broadband service at affordable prices throughout Hawaii, without leaving behind our underserved communities.
2. Increase the use of high-speed broadband services and applications for economic development, health care, education, public safety, governmental efficiency and civic engagement while reducing the digital divide that leaves some citizens behind.
3. Reduce Hawaii's barriers to global participation by promoting greater trans-pacific fiber connectivity and ensure equitable access for all our islands.
4. Develop and implement a modern regulatory and permitting environment that supports and advances investment in broadband infrastructure and services for the public.

WHY HAWAII: Hawaii, and the United States as a whole, lags the leading nations and economies of the world that have identified advanced broadband as critical infrastructure for the 21st century and have aggressively leapfrogged the U.S. This infrastructure is particularly critical for Hawaii, which is physically isolated from the rest of the world and divided internally by our island geography. Given the importance of advanced communications to our islands' future, Hawaii should and will be the first state in the U.S. to set the bold goal of affordable ubiquitous gigabit service availability.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Establish Hawaii Broadband Initiative, led by the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.
- Collaborate with public and private sectors to achieve the goals.
- Continue to develop our initial statewide broadband maps to provide data on what level of service is available anywhere in the State, down to the household.
- Work with our wired and wireless broadband providers to understand the barriers and obstacles to investment and progress in broadband services.
- Ensure availability of alternative high speed access for the most remote regions in the State.
- Promote advanced wireless services throughout Hawaii for mobility and flexibility of access.
- Re-position Hawaii as a welcoming home for all new trans-pacific submarine fiber optic cable project.
- Recommend statutory, regulatory and policy changes needed to increase the availability of high speed Internet services throughout the state, including underserved regions.
- Provide free high-speed Internet services in public areas around the State.
- Encourage and support media literacy programs that help our citizens benefit from broadband services personally and professionally.
- Develop and deploy e-health applications to support health information exchange and provide advanced diagnosis, consultation and treatment for residents wherever they live in Hawaii.
- Ensure equitable access to education throughout all islands, from K12 through higher education, by leveraging advanced broadband applications for e-learning and distance education.

- Develop a statewide interoperable public safety network.
- Expand the use of networked information technologies to improve the efficiency and convenience of all levels and types of government services.
- Promote citizen participation in government from anywhere in the State through the use of broadband communications